

Reconfigurable, Virtual Processing System, Cluster, Network and Method

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application claims priority to U.S. provisional application serial number 60/285,296, filed on April 20, 201, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Background

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to computing systems for enterprises and application service providers and, more specifically, to processing systems having virtualized communication networks and storage for quick deployment and reconfiguration.

2. Discussion of Related Art

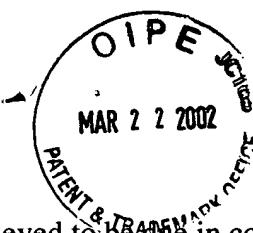
In current enterprise computing and application service provider environments, personnel from multiple information technology (IT) functions (electrical, networking, etc.) must participate to deploy processing and networking resources. Consequently, because of scheduling and other difficulties in coordinating activities from multiple departments, it can take weeks or months to deploy a new computer server. This lengthy, manual process increases both human and equipment costs, and delays the launch of applications.

Moreover, because it is difficult to anticipate how much processing power applications will require, managers typically over-provision the amount of computational power. As a result, data-center computing resources often go unutilized or under-utilized.

If more processing power is eventually needed than originally provisioned, the various IT functions will again need to coordinate activities to deploy more or improved servers, connect them to the communication and storage networks and so forth. This task gets increasingly difficult as the systems become larger.

Deployment is also problematic. For example, when deploying 24 conventional servers, more than 100 discrete connections may be required to configure the overall system. Managing these cables is an ongoing challenge, and each represents a failure point. Attempting to mitigate

USSN 10/038,353
Attorney Docket No. 112153.128



No fees are believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if a fee is due or a credit owed in connection with the matter, please charge it to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 13, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Dichiara".

Peter Dichiara
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 38,005

Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Tel: (617) 526-6000
Fax: (617) 526-5000

RECEIVED

MAR 27 2002

Technology Center 2100